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SOURCE Nowe Drogi, Vol VII, No 3 (45).REPORT ON PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN LUBLIN WOJEWODZTWO

The following information is taken from one of the commentaries made by dignitaries of the PZPR (Polish United Workers Party) at the Eighth Plenum of its Central Committee, held 28 March 1953. Each of the commentaries, given in abridged form in Nowe Drogi, is an amplification of Bierut's keynote address on the Struggle for the Continued Strengthening of the Party and the National Front.

Jozef Kalinowski, first secretary of the KW (Komitet Wojewodzki, Wojewodstwo Committee) of the PZPR in Lublin reports progress in organizing producers cooperatives, but scores pressure methods that antagonize peasants.

The immortal Stalin teaches us that the dictatorship of the proletariat is not consolidated and strengthened spontaneously, but through the self-sacrifice of the party and through its leadership. Without party leadership, dictatorship of the proletariat would be impossible. In their efforts to realize the tasks of the party and the government, the party echelons and organizations are growing and being strengthened in the daily battle with the class enemy.

The political work of recent months, the fight for the realization of economic plans in industry, and the achievement of compulsory deliveries by the villages have greatly strengthened the Lublin organization. Through political and economic activities, the party echelons have been drawn closer to the primary party organizations, and the party activists and party organizations to the working masses and the peasantry. As a result, the party echelons and party activists now have a better perception of the attitudes of the masses and react more quickly to the appearance of hostile activities. By removing elements which hampered the development of party organizations by opportunism and hostile attitudes to the party line, we have greatly strengthened the party ranks. As the authority of the party grew and activities of the masses increased, shockworkers and peasants began to join the organizations prepared to work diligently to realize our tasks. The newly organized candidate groups are

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showing great activity in organizing producers cooperatives. Comrade Stalin has taught us to strengthen the alliance between worker and peasant and to weld together the city and the village. Our party did some important work in educating the peasant masses to the importance of compulsory deliveries, explaining that they are the peasants' contribution toward the realization of the Six-Year Plan and are closely tied in with their own interests. In 1951, our wojewodztwo was very late in realizing the plan of compulsory deliveries; in 1952, grain deliveries were completed on schedule.

The Seventh Plenum placed before us the task of mobilizing the great potential reserves by increasing per-hectare crop yields and livestock production to temper the excessive disproportion between the tempo of socialist industrial development and agricultural development. In 1952, we increased the cultivated area by 25,000 hectares, as compared to 1951. The area under wheat was increased by 35,000 hectares, barley by 31,000 hectares, sugar beets by 28 percent, flax and hemp by 31 percent, and tobacco by 23 percent. Per-hectare wheat yields increased 2 quintals over those of 1951, and rye 1.5 quintals.

Increased party activity in the villages is improving the work of the national councils, in which the feeling of responsibility for the over-all economic problems has been strengthened. Another strengthening factor was the replacing of casual and hostile elements with new people recruited from the activists of the National Front. In 1952, the professional and political training of council members was expanded. All this helped to cement the bond between the councils and the working peasant masses and mobilized the councils to fight the kulaks and speculators. The councils fought the fictitious "paper" division of lands and brought to light the true state of affairs, unmasking the kulak who was hiding behind a fictitious distribution of his lands.

In the Seventh Plenum, Comrade Bierut, in mapping out the development of socialism in the Polish villages, showed that we must increase our efforts to transform the small individual peasant farms gradually into large socialized farms, enabling them to take advantage of scientific and technical discoveries, to raise the level of work productivity, and to achieve higher crop yields.

To promote producers cooperatives among the masses of small- and medium-holding peasants, the Lublin organization planned more than 400 trips to cooperatives during 1952 and 1953 in which about 15,000 peasants participated. We have expanded our political activities in the gmina and the powiat with the rural intellectuals, especially the teachers, preparing them to promote cooperatives in the schools and among the parents. We have placed scientific workers in agricultural and university institutes, and agronomists who have started to popularize modern achievements in agriculture among the working peasant masses, on a wider scale than heretofore. We have organized meetings of scientists and leading peasants and farm workers. Discussions at these meetings included regional specialization of crops, proper cultivation of land, and methods of systematic increase in per hectare yields.

We have carried out intensive political work among the industrial workers in Lublin Wojewodztwo, persuading them to take an active part in the fight for the development of producers cooperatives. As a result, 363 contact groups have been set up to organize producers cooperatives. Through this work, a number of party and nonparty activists have been developed who understand the role of the working class as leaders in relation to the working peasantry.

As a result of the work of the party and the national councils, we have strengthened, to a great degree, the existing cooperatives by training cadres for producers cooperatives, by expanding livestock breeding, and by eliminating the overexpansion of garden plots, thus increasing the cultivated area of the cooperatives by 600 hectares.

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We organized more than 300 producers cooperatives in 1953. The total number of producers cooperatives in Lublin Wojewodztwo as of 27 March exceeded 500. Of the newly organized cooperatives, 255 will participate in the spring sowing.

In what kind of political atmosphere within the party and among the working peasants was the battle for the expansion of producers cooperatives in the Lublin area waged this year? Lublin's contribution to the economy means, first of all, an increase in the production of grain, meat, and industrial crops. The majority of the party members, aware of this fact, concentrated on the expansion of producers cooperatives. We demanded a positive attitude from directors of people's councils, gmina cooperatives, and party activists. To build the cooperative movement, we used leading activists of the wojewodztwo and powiat committees, whose work in gminas and communities stirred up the activists on the lower level and equipped them with better talking points and new methods of working with peasants. As a result of this, devoted activist groups to promote producers cooperatives were formed in a number of gminas and communities.

Comrades working in communities dealt effectively with the kulaks, unmasking their methods of exploitation and the inspiration of their hatred for the idea of producers cooperatives. A favorable attitude toward organizing cooperatives was growing in hundreds of our villages. To a greater measure than heretofore, the medium-holding peasant joined the cooperative. This is something to be emphasized because in the Lublin organization there has existed a lack of faith in our influence on medium-holding peasants. In the Chelm and Wlodawa powiats, a new method of operation has been started. A community that has organized a cooperative appeals, in writing, to neighboring communities to follow in its footsteps. Members of cooperatives have gone to their neighbors with such letters and have helped activists to organize producers cooperatives.

Evidence of the great interest of peasants in cooperatives is the spontaneous participation of peasants from surrounding communities in meetings for the registration of cooperatives. This took place in the Wlodawa, Hrubieszow, and Chelm powiats.

Stalin taught that we should not lag behind the masses or outstrip them too much, but rather advance with them, and lead the masses to a better understanding of our slogans and make it as easy as possible for the peasants to be convinced through their own experience about the justice of these slogans. We instructed our party echelons and organizations to permit peasants the freedom of choosing a type of cooperative they wanted, taking into consideration the degree of political maturity of the peasants, and to permit them to unite personal interests with the interests of the state to the best of their understanding. As a result of this, a larger number of Type I cooperatives, more suitable for the medium-holding peasant, were created than heretofore. The 300 newly organized cooperatives include 9 Type I, 116 Type Ib, 32 Type II, and 144 Type III.

In the intensified work this year in organizing producers cooperatives, we did not, however, avoid shortcomings and errors. Increased activity of the party organization during recent months created favorable conditions for wider expansion of the party. However, these possibilities were not used to advantage. An example of this is the fact that in 67 of the newly organized cooperatives there are no party organizations. Furthermore, the membership of workers has not expanded in proportion to the growth of the working class. The large number of persons applying for membership in the party, which assumed notable proportions in Poland after Stalin's death, should help to strengthen the worker-peasant section in our organization. The party apparatus and activists are still guilty of poor organizing methods. For example, in some communities administrative pressure was used to get some peasants to join new cooperatives when these peasants had to pay fines for falling behind on produce delivery.

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quotas. There were several cases where party and nonparty members were threatened with dismissal from work because their parents refused to join the cooperative. In several cases, there was no screening of applicants to the cooperative, or of members of the administration. The result of this was that here and there a kulak was able to join the cooperative. At the root of such occurrences lies the lack of fundamental assimilation by some of the party activists of Stalin's teachings that organizing producers cooperatives through force can only produce unfavorable results, and can only turn peasants against the producers cooperative movement. Peasants can be convinced of the superiority of group economy only after they have learned from experience that it assures a way out of poverty and misery for poor and medium-holding peasants.

The work in expanding the producers cooperative movement has shown that despite our weaknesses, producers cooperatives can be set up faster than previously. The fact that we have at present 140 new organizing committees and 470 initiating groups is proof of this. The battle for an increase in the yield per hectare and for the expansion of the producers cooperative movement means a fuller utilization of the fertile Lublin lands, and an increase in participation by our wojewodztwo in the work to improve the living conditions and culture of our people. For the fulfillment of our tasks, we will further improve the ideological quality of the party members, and the mobilizing ability of the primary party organizations. Above all, we will teach party activists and all party members to listen more carefully and attentively to the voice of the people, to take people's feelings into account, and to direct these feelings.

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